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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 31 | Min 22 | Humidity 63% Partly Cloudy Sensex 75,157 | Nifty 22,828 | Gold 93,641 | Silver 94,519 | Dollar 86.20 | Euro 97.73 | GBP 112.52

DEBRIS DESIGN

Rule to come into effect from next year will make sure construction & demolition waste producers are held accountable for safe disposal and reuse of waste

PAGE 4

POOR SHOW

In 2024–25, out of 1,44,425 students enrolled in state-run PU colleges, only 2,474 passed, exposing the neglect these institutions face

PAGE 5

Price hikes have prompted thieves to take what they can lay their hands on — milk packets or gas cylinders. As citizens hesitate to file complaints, police say ignoring this can lead to bigger thefts

SEASON OF STEAL DEALS

Frequency of small thefts increases though acts are caught on CCTV

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The recent price hikes on various essentials has spawned a new breed of thieves -- those that believe no item is petty, be it milk packets or LPG gas cylinders.

In a recent incident that has left local residents concerned, unidentified thieves on scooters made away with multiple packets of milk from a Nandini booth in Kamakshipalya in the early hours of April 4. Meanwhile, in the quiet residential lanes of AECSC Block in Begur, cylinder bandits struck, stealing the goods from front porches of houses.

The milk thieves were caught in the act on CCTV, arriving on two scooters around 4.11 am. Taking advantage of the quiet pre-dawn hours, they swiftly stole four to five litres of milk before making their escape. The theft occurred shortly after the morning crates had been unloaded outside the booth.

Girigowda, the owner of the affected booth, expressed his frustration over the recurring thefts. "This isn't the first time we've seen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"These thieves will continue their activities unchecked unless legal action is taken. Only when they are brought under the purview of the law can such crimes be curbed — Police official

Charged up

While B'luru has 4,626 public charging stations, experts say scaling up number needs to be backed by proper analysis

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka has maintained its lead in the number of public charging stations (PCS) for electric vehicles in the country.

The latest data from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency shows that the state, with 5,880 public charging stations for electric vehicles, is much ahead of Maharashtra (3,746 stations), and Uttar Pradesh (2,137 stations).

Out of the total charging stations in Karnataka, 4,626 stations are located in Tier 1 cities, 285 stations are in tier 2 cities and 969 stations are in tier 3 cities in the state.

Bengaluru has 4,626 public charging stations and about 2.73 lakh EVs as of April 2025.

City-based mobility experts say lack of adequate charging infrastructure is the biggest hurdle in widespread adoption of EVs. However, while the charging infrastructure influences adoption rate by reducing range anxiety, location and geographical distribution of these stations is an important factor.

For the faster adoption of EVs in the city, in addition to density, the charging infrastructure in the city needs to be tailored to meet the needs of EV users. Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Weekend rhythm

Get ready to groove as H2O The Band brings their multilingual energy to the stage with a setlist of powerful covers and original hits. Known for their eclectic style and magnetic stage presence.
Where: Dobaraa – Phoenix Mall of Asia
When: April 13, 8.00 pm onwards

02 Natya legacy

Step into an evening of rhythm and grace at Natya Ranjini Mala, a 90-minute solo dance recital marking 25 years of a passionate dance journey. Accompanied by a live orchestra, this milestone performance celebrates classical artistry and devotion
Where: JSS Auditorium
When: April 26, 6.00 pm onwards

03 Dramatic verdict

Step into the powerful world of The Trial of Abdus Salam, a thought-provoking courtroom drama that delves into the life, brilliance, and battles of the first Muslim Nobel Laureate in science.
Where: Ranga Shankar
When: April 18 – 3.30 pm & 7.30 pm

04 Stage & spice

Dive into creativity this summer with Summer Express 2025—a vibrant lineup of 8 theatre workshops exploring different aspects of performance, along with 2 exciting cooking workshops. Whether you're drawn to the spotlight or the stovetop, register soon!
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: Batch 1 – April 14 to 27

05 Artistic escape

Dive into a hands-on experience at Ragi Kana's Summer Workshop with a special session on handmade poster creation, designed to engage participants of all ages in a refreshing journey through colour, texture, and creativity.
Where: Ragi Kana
When: April 13, 11.00 pm

Plastic pollution reaches our plates

Atmospheric microplastics found in vegetables spark health concerns; weak enforcement blamed for failed plastic ban

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Health risk of plastic pollution has regained focus after a study on plastic contamination has highlighted that plants can absorb microplastics from the atmosphere.

The study published recently shows that the plants absorb and accumulate atmospheric microplastics, and its level in vegetables grown outdoors is much higher than that cultivated in an indoor setup. This leaf-absorbed plastic may subsequently enter the food chain, impacting crucial internal organs, health experts warn.

City-based anti-plastic crusaders and activists call for a revamped enforcement strategy of a single-use plastic (SUP) ban that was implemented by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on July 1, 2022.

"It is going to be three years of the CPCB ban on SUP. However, banned items are still available in many shops and can be seen discarded as waste. Not much has changed on the ground," said an activist.

On July 1, 2022, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) announced a ban on the use of single-use plastic (SUP) items. The 19 SUP items that were to be banned starting July 2022 included earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, plastic plates, cups, plastic glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packets, PVC banners less than 100 microns, and stirrers.

Waste coming from houses and factories

> **"We have multiple legal instruments to manage plastic waste, but none have been effective due to poor enforcement and lack of implementation."** –A citizen

Notably, the Karnataka government had imposed a full ban on the use of polythene bags, apart from various other plastic-based items, much earlier, in 2016. The notification issued by the government cited that the use of plastic carry bags, banners, buntings, flexes, plastic flags, etc., is a threat to the environment and the health of human beings as well as animals. The notification thus imposed a ban on the manufacture, supply, sale, and use of these and other such items.

"Flexes and bunting are still present across the city and on the outskirts. We have multiple legal instruments to manage plastic waste and reduce its use. However, none have worked so far due to a lack of enforcement. Outcome of such studies should be considered as warnings, and the rules should be implemented strictly," said a citizen.

The study, carried out by researchers from Nankai University in China and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA, was published in the Nature journal recently.

Bonsai Garden reimagines nature with world-class features

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After years of being stalled, the Bonsai Garden at Lalbagh has finally been revamped and is now open to the public. A new Bonsai Studio has also been set up, allowing visitors to observe plant care, grafting, and other cultivation techniques up close.

In addition, plans are underway for the construction of land stepping and an eco-cup. A two-storey eco-zone is also in the pipeline, where Bonsai plants and related accessories will be available for purchase. The Bonsai Garden will feature a fountain to enhance its visual appeal. There are also proposals to install a Tulka (sculpture) within the garden in the near future.

A horticulture department official said, "In this newly redesigned space, large tree species that typically grow to significant sizes have been transformed into Bonsai forms through careful pruning and cultivation in pots. Various plants that naturally grow into full-sized trees have been miniaturised using the Bonsai technique, creating a unique attraction for visitors. The Bonsai Garden, spread across 2.5 acres within Lalbagh, is being updated with a modern touch. Over 100 Bonsai specimens, aged between 10 and 50 years, have been curated over the past three years and are now on display. Renowned Bonsai artist Anupama Vedachala has played a key role in designing this garden."

Flowers bloom at Lalbagh Botanical Garden

India's first "Bonsai Revival" project is underway, with construction expected to be completed within a year. The revamped Bonsai Garden is poised to become a major attraction. Tree species such as pine varieties, Christmas trees, and fruit-bearing plants like lemons and oranges can all be cultivated using the Bonsai technique.

The first phase of development, estimated to cost around 55 lakhs, is currently underway. A dedicated section of the garden showcases information about Bonsai plants. Various species have been grafted and arranged within a natural setting, with rocks strategically placed between them to create the illusion of Bonsai trees growing naturally. Drawing inspiration from the Amphitheatre concept, different types of Bonsai plants have been incorporated across various sections of the garden. The focus of the Bonsai Garden is on plant grafting and maintenance, with pathways being constructed to allow public access. In the upcoming phase, a fountain and land sculpting will be added, with completion expected during the monsoon season.

HT Balakrishna, Deputy Director of the Horticulture Department, said, "Bonsai plants are being carefully grown and nurtured at the site. The development of this internationally standard Bonsai Garden in Bengaluru is part of an ongoing initiative aimed at creating a unique, world-class experience for visitors."

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K-RERA states early OC grants exemption

Projects with OC applications before May 1, 2017, are exempt from registration; Karnataka authority dismisses homebuyers' complaints over pending work

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The Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has clarified that residential projects which applied for Occupancy Certificate (OC) before the Karnataka Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2017 came into force, are not required to register under RERA. The ruling ends a long-standing confusion regarding registration obligations for such housing projects. K-RERA dismissed petitions filed by homebuyers who claimed that projects still under construction but with prior OC applications, should be brought under RERA's purview.

Background and case details

Citing a Karnataka High Court judgment, K-RERA rejected complaints by homebuyers regarding the Hamilton Homes project near Electronics City, developed by SJR Prime Corporation. The buyers argued the project was incomplete and required RERA registration.

The case was heard by a single-member bench comprising K-RERA Chairman Rakesh Singh and Member GR Reddy, in response to complaints filed by SR Balaji and others from Doddathogur.

Developer filed OC before RERA deadline

After hearing arguments, K-RERA stated that the developer had applied for the OC in 2016 and received it on May 17, 2017. Since the RERA Act came into effect on May 1, 2017, and the application was made before that date, the project does not fall under RERA's mandatory registration criteria. Referencing the Karnataka High Court's 2022 ruling in the Cambian Technologies Pvt Ltd vs K-RERA case, the authority reiterated that if a project had completed construction and obtained OC/CC before the RERA Act came into force, it would be exempt from registration under the Act.

Homebuyers' allegations

The homebuyers had booked flats in the Fidussa Homes project near Electronics City back in 2012. Of the 359 flats planned, 120 remained incomplete, with pending works such as tiling, painting, and interior finishes. Only 102 flats had been registered. Buyers claimed that the builder had not handed over common areas to the residents' association, nor completed the water supply and waste management infrastructure. Based on this, they argued that the project was still under construction and should be registered under RERA. The developer countered that all key construction activities were completed by 2016 and that only minor interior works remained. The OC had been applied for in December 2016 and granted by the competent authority on May 17, 2017. These finishing works, they argued, are usually done post-sale and do not imply ongoing project development.

Final verdict

K-RERA concluded that projects with OC applications filed before May 1, 2017, are exempt from mandatory registration, even if minor finishing works are pending. As such, the complaints were dismissed, stating that the builder had fulfilled all legal obligations within the stipulated timeline. This order resolves ambiguity over OC-linked RERA registration.

Speeding car causes chaos

An accident near Ambedkar College in Nagarabhavi on Friday night left two people injured and caused damage to several parked vehicles. A Honda City car, reportedly moving at high speed, collided with multiple two-wheelers and pedestrians in the area.

The incident occurred around 9:40 pm when the car, en route from Quattros Gate to Deepa Complex, lost control and crashed into a row of bikes and bystanders standing by the roadside. Seven bikes were completely damaged in the accident, and one pedestrian sustained a serious leg injury, with doctors stating that amputation may be required.

The driver, identified as Puneeth, was allegedly speeding and failed to control the vehicle. Officials said vehicle parts were scattered across the road, with CCTV footage showing the moments before and during the crash.

The Jnanabharathi Traffic Police took Puneeth into custody. According to sources, preliminary investigations suggest possible drug use, and Puneeth is currently undergoing medical examination to confirm the suspicion. Police have assured a thorough investigation.

—BMB

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Transportation is Available

Grand travel fair for attractive travel packages

For travel enthusiasts, Vijay Karnataka (sister concern of Bangalore Mirror), in association with renowned travel company Thomas Cook, is organising a Grand Travel Fair in the city on April 13.

This Grand Travel Fair will offer valuable information about domestic and international travel. It provides an opportunity for discussions with experienced travel experts and tour managers. Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror readers will also get special discounts up to ₹30,000.

The Grand Travel Fair will be held on Sunday, April 13, from 10 am to 8 pm at The Lalit Ashok Hotel, next to Kumarakrupa High Grounds, and at La Marvella, near South End Circle, Jayanagar, Bengaluru. In addition to expert guidance, entertainment activities will also be organised, and exciting prizes can be won through games. Special discounts and exclusive travel offers will also be available.

Special Bhutan package

WITH ITS rich cultural heritage, Bhutan has emerged as a favourite destination for travellers. For those planning a trip to Bhutan, Thomas Cook has announced special flights and four exclusive discounted packages. Special direct flights will operate from Bengaluru to Bhutan on April 26, May 3, 10, 17, and 24. Additionally, an experienced Kannada-speaking tour manager will accompany travellers to provide insights into Bhutanese culture. During the trip, authentic South Indian delicacies prepared by Indian chefs will enhance the travel experience.

What are you waiting for?

Give a missed call to 8652908457 to register your name.

Date: April 13, Sunday
Time: 10 am to 8 pm
Venue: The Lalit Ashok Hotel, Kumarakrupa High Grounds, Bengaluru, La Marvella, South End Circle, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru

New waste rules to reshape city construction practices

To tackle rising urban pollution, Environment Ministry introduces targets, tracking systems, and penalties for proper disposal and reuse of C&D waste

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The central Environment Ministry has recently notified the Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025, which impose stricter regulations on waste producers and mandate a 5% target for utilising C&D waste in construction activities, along with other directives.

The rule will be effective April 1, 2026, and will make C&D waste producers accountable and responsible for the safe disposal and reuse of the waste through a transparent system.

Apart from setting the minimum targets of 5% for the utilisation of waste in construction and reconstruction activities having a built-up area of 20,000 square meters or above by 2026-27, it has also mandated the use of C&D waste in road construction.

As per the new rule, the local authority will be responsible for monitoring the utilisation of waste targets through CPCB's online portal.

City-based experts say that while the new rule will ensure accountability and transparency towards better management of C&D waste, Bengaluru needs to iron out certain aspects for effective implementation.

"Under the new rules, generators and recyclers must register on the CPCB's portal for the implementation and monitoring of extended producer responsibility targets. The portal will also serve as a single point for data on construction and demolition waste. While the rule aims to ensure accountability and transparency, enforcement remains crucial. Bengaluru has struggled to enforce the C&D waste management rule, 2016," said Rajesh Korah, co-owner of Rock Crystal, the city's fully functional and BBMP-authorised C&D waste recycling plant.

C&D waste zone in the city

> **"The rule ensures accountability and transparency, but enforcement remains crucial. Bengaluru has struggled to enforce the 2016 rule,"**
>
> – Rajesh Korah, Rock Crystal co-owner

The rules have been framed on the existing draft Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2024, which was published in 2024, inviting objections and suggestions from the public.

Experts say, apart from BBMP pulling up its socks, corporates dealing with C&DF waste in the city and other agencies need to join hands.

"BBMP should receive support from the Police Department, in addition to assistance from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, for effective implementation of the rules. While BBMP has been fining smaller trucks illegally dumping C&D waste across the city, it's time to penalise the generators using larger tipper trucks for illegal dumping. Accountability must be placed on the waste generators, not just the vehicle drivers," said a city-based C&D expert.

Under the new rule, every producer will fall under the extended producer responsibility framework and will be required to prepare a waste management plan for each project to assess the volume of waste generated and seek approval from the local body.

The Bureau of Indian Standards and Indian Roads Congress will be responsible for the preparation of a code of practice and standards for the use of recycled materials and products of construction and demolition waste in respect of construction activities.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the rule will attract environmental compensation. However, the compensation would not absolve the producer from the extended producer responsibility, and the unfulfilled responsibility will be carried forward to the next year.

Yelahanka topper in BBMP tax collection

In a record-breaking achievement, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has collected ₹4,927 crore in property tax for the fiscal year 2024–25, surpassing last year's collection of `3,900 crore by ₹1,027 crore. This marks the first time BBMP has crossed the ₹4,000-crore mark, reaching 94.57% of its ambitious ₹5,210 crore target. To recognise and motivate officials, BBMP ranked its eight zones based on performance against targets. Yelahanka emerged as the top-performing zone, collecting ₹464.66 crore against a ₹445.24 crore target (104.3%)—the only zone to exceed its goal. Mahadevapura followed with ₹1,037.68 crore (99.9%) against a ₹1,309 crore target. South zone secured third place with ₹733.65 crore (95.34%) from a ₹769.50 crore target, while East zone stood fourth with ₹834.14 crore (93.52%) against ₹891.89 crore. Dasarahalli (92.72%), West (92.17%), and RR Nagar (87.89%) followed, while Bommanahalli ranked last, achieving 83.75% with ₹490.03 crore collected from a ₹585.11 crore target. **–BMB**

Karaga Shaktyotsava lights up city's streets

The city came alive on Saturday night as the historic Karaga Shaktyotsava and Sri Dharmarayaswamy Maharathotsava unfolded in a vibrant celebration of faith, tradition, and culture at the Dharmarayaswamy Temple in Thigalarpet. This year marked the 15th occasion in which Priest A Gnanendra carried the floral Karaga, a symbolic representation of Draupadi Devi, through the narrow lanes of old Bengaluru as part of this time-honoured ritual.

Devotees began gathering on Saturday as special rituals, Abhishekam, and Mahamangalaratis were performed at the temple. The chief priest, dressed in a turmeric-coloured saree and bangles, conducted the Ganga Puja at the Karaga Kunte (pond) in Cubbon Park, invoking the blessings of Draupadi Devi. Following this, the Hasikaraga was brought to the temple mandapa for special worship.

Devotees taking part in the Bengaluru Karaga Shaktyotsava

As night fell, a ceremonial parade unfolded with Veerakumaras (warrior devotees), Utsavakarthas, and traditional flags, accompanied by the resonant sounds of Nadaswaram. During the return procession, the Veerakumaras offered flowers gathered throughout the journey to build a sacred mandapa at the temple, where the symbolic wedding of Arjuna and Draupadi was performed. The highlight of the night, the Karaga Shaktyotsava, involved invoking the divine energy of Draupadi (Durga) into the Karaga pot, which was adorned with fresh flowers. Priest Gnanendra, wielding a sword in one hand, carried the Karaga on his head, flanked by sword-bearing Veerakumaras, as it made its way through various neighbourhoods, visiting temples, the homes of Kula Purohita (family priests), and devotees. **–BMB**

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Civic neglect
Karthik Nagar

Stretches of road from Karthik Nagar to AECS Layout remain slushy and slippery, making it difficult for pedestrians to navigate safely.

Road danger
CV Raman Nagar

A 6-inch-deep pit left open for over a year after drainage and road repairs poses a serious risk to commuters at Kaggadasapura in CV Raman Nagar. Urgent attention is needed.

Blocked footpath
Commercial Street

Vehicles parked on Commercial Street blocking the footpath, showing little regard for pedestrian rights or civic regulations.

Low results, high neglect

PU colleges in trouble

With 47% teacher shortfall and pass percentage of just 57.11%, K'taka's government pre-university system is struggling; around 10–20 colleges per district are at risk of closure

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Despite being a crucial part of the state's education system, government pre-university (PU) colleges in Karnataka continue to struggle with quality education and poor results. Pre-university education is a turning point in students' academic journey, determining their prospects. Recognising this, private institutions prioritise PU education, often charging higher fees than undergraduate and postgraduate programs. These reputed private colleges consistently deliver strong results, leveraging quality infrastructure and experienced faculty.

In contrast, government PU colleges remain neglected. In the academic year 2024–25, out of 1,44,425 students enrolled in state-run PU colleges, only 2,474 students passed, resulting in a pass percentage of just 57.11%. While 13 government colleges recorded a 100% pass rate, eight others saw zero success, raising serious concerns. The arts stream, in particular, recorded dismally low results.

Lagging behind in facilities

Despite various government initiatives, the majority of government PU colleges continue to suffer from severe infrastructural and staffing deficiencies. There is a glaring 50% shortage of teachers, with some lecturers being shared between two colleges, attending each on alternate days. Basic facilities such as libraries and laboratories are missing in many institutions, while the absence of security personnel and proper toilet facilities further highlights the poor state of infrastructure. "These colleges mostly cater to educationally backward students. Yet, our teachers are striving beyond their capacity to maintain the quality of education," said AH Ningegowda, President of the PU College Lecturers' Association. He also pointed out that, unlike primary and secondary schools, PU colleges are not being given adequate priority. Rural colleges, in particular, are left with nothing beyond basic buildings and a few lecturers, forcing parents of bright students to opt for reputed private colleges in cities that offer better infrastructure and academic outcomes.

Consequently, many government PU colleges are facing a decline in enrollment. Several colleges across districts are on the verge of shutting down, with 10 to 20 such institutions per district reportedly at risk. Even in colleges that offer Science and Commerce streams, the student count often falls below 15.

Severe faculty shortage

Karnataka has 1,232 government PU colleges with a sanctioned strength of 12,917 teaching posts. However, only 6,900 of these posts are filled, leaving a shortfall of 47%. Guest lecturers are appointed only by September, by which time two months of the academic year have already passed. Ideally, each PU college should have four core subject lecturers apart from the language faculty. However, due to the lack of students, one lecturer is often assigned to cover two colleges, attending each only every alternate day. "This systemic neglect is severely impacting the state's government PU education sector, risking the futures of thousands of students from underprivileged and rural backgrounds," added Gowda.

Paid birthday leave for home guards

In a move to recognise and appreciate the contributions of Home Guard personnel, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda has announced that Home Guards serving under the Bengaluru City Police Commissionerate will now be granted paid leave on their birthdays, along with a greeting letter, similar to the privilege currently extended to police officers.

Commissioner Dayananda stressed the growing importance of both physical and mental health in recent times, especially for personnel in uniformed services.

He acknowledged that duty-related stress can lead to health concerns and mentioned ongoing initiatives by the city police to address this. "Dedicated counsellors are being deployed to visit police stations and engage with officers and staff to discuss mental wellness," he said.

"Training sessions are also being held to raise awareness on maintaining good mental health. Going forward, Home Guard personnel will also receive regular counselling support."

NICE probe delayed again

Opposition leaders have slammed the Cabinet's decision to form yet another sub-committee on the controversial NICE project, calling it a clear attempt to delay rather than act.

They pointed out that the project has faced allegations of irregularities since 1998, with multiple Assembly debates and detailed reports — including one by the TB Jayachandra Committee — already outlining the issues. Critics argue the government has failed to act on existing findings, even as the agreement with the NICE company nears its end.

A legal expert tracking the case said the move "appears more like a delaying strategy than meaningful action." The timing, repeated committee formations, and lack of concrete steps towards reclaiming control or ensuring transparency have deepened public doubts about the government's intent.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

Vibrance in the Wild

Our reader shares that while exploring the Kabini wildlife sanctuary, they came across a striking sight a jungle fowl flaunting its vibrant plumage. "These birds, with their brilliant colours, are truly a photographer's delight," they write, having captured the moment on camera.

The picture was clicked by BM reader
N J Ravi Chander

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Age is the new bait: Cybercrooks target victims by generation

From fake job offers to digital arrest threats, Karnataka CID exposes how cyber frauds are custom-fit to exploit each age group's unique vulnerabilities

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Cybercriminals are increasingly tailoring their scams based on the age of their targets, according to a new analytical report released by the Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The findings reveal that each age group is vulnerable to different types of cyber frauds, with cybercriminals exploiting these patterns to siphon off lakhs of rupees from unsuspecting victims. The report, which uncovers a surprising correlation between age and cybercrime vulnerability, has prompted CID to launch awareness campaigns customised for various age groups.

The report outlines how young adults aged 18 to 20, primarily students, are often lured by offers of easy money through social media. Scammers share links to fake job portals or websites promising high-paying tasks, duping victims into sharing personal details or making advance payments.

Working professionals between 30 and 45 years fall prey to investment scams. With aspirations to grow their income, they are often targeted with fraudulent stock market tips, crypto investment traps, and high-return promises.

Senior citizens aged 50 to 70 are increasingly being threatened with digital arrest scams. Fraudsters impersonate government or law enforcement officials, accusing victims of serious crimes and extorting money under the guise of avoiding legal trouble.

A senior CID official noted that Karnataka receives 100 to 200 cybercrime FIRs daily. Metro cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Kochi contribute to nearly 20% of India's cybercrime cases. Despite a decrease in physical crimes like robbery and assault, white-collar cybercrime is on the rise, he noted. "We're focusing on advanced technological tools, including artificial intelligence, to curb such offenses. New apps are being developed, and awareness programs are being intensified." The report also highlighted the rising use of fake donation requests, inflated delivery charges, and platform fees on online food delivery apps add-ons.

DID YOU KNOW?

Soil and rock samples from the moon's far side suggest it may be drier than the near side, Chinese scientists reported. Analysing 578 particles from the 5 grams collected by China's Chang'e 6 mission, researchers found water levels under 1.5 micrograms per gram—low compared to up to 200 micrograms found on the near side. The Chang'e 6 spacecraft landed in the South Pole-Aitken basin, one of the largest craters in the solar system. Scientists say more samples are needed to confirm the extent of dryness and understand how water is distributed in the lunar mantle.

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Is the government rewarding taxpayers? Here is a fact check

Govt debunks fake 'PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana' claim; No such scheme exists, confirms PIB

The Government of India has debunked claims about a viral scheme named PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana, calling it fake and misleading. The scheme, originally reported by Buland India, allegedly offered incentives like travel discounts, "Kar Miles," and free internet data to honest taxpayers

A viral article by a news platform recently claimed that the government has introduced a new scheme titled PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana. In a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), the government confirmed that this claim is fake and there is no such scheme as PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana.

According to an article published by Buland India, the Government of India has reportedly launched a new initiative called the "PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana," aimed at rewarding honest taxpayers. As per the article, the scheme promises several incentives, including travel discounts, Kar Miles (a proposed reward point system), and free internet data, as a gesture of appreciation for responsible tax compliance.

However, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check has officially debunked this claim. "An article by Buland India claims that the Government of India is offering rewards to honest taxpayers like travel discounts, Kar Miles and free internet data under a new scheme called "PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana.

This claim is fake. There is NO such scheme as PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana," the post shared on X stated.

— PIBFactCheck (@PIBFactCheck)

The PIB clarified that there is no such scheme under the name PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana. The bureau further stated that the viral news is completely false and misleading.

This is not the rst time that misinformation has been circulated using official-sounding scheme names. Scammers and clickbait websites often craft fake stories around government benefits to attract traffic or deceive people into sharing personal details. In light of this, citizens are advised to verify such claims through official government portals or trusted

fact-checking sources like PIB Fact Check.

It is important to remember that while the government does promote tax compliance through various benefits and schemes, any legitimate program is always officially announced and well-documented on government websites and in the media.

In conclusion, the PM Kardata Kalyan Yojana does not exist, and claims related to it are false. Taxpayers should stay vigilant and refrain from sharing unverified news.

-Sneha Kulkarni, ET Online

Ministers jostle for second airport site selection

Political leaders pitch constituencies; AAI to submit feasibility report in a month

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With the AAI team visiting the city to inspect the proposed sites, a political tug-of-war has erupted within the ruling party over the proposed location for Bengaluru's second international airport. While the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is yet to finalise a site based on multiple technical and logistical criteria, ministers and legislators have started lobbying for the airport to be established in their respective constituencies.

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi revealed that he had already written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, suggesting that the new airport should be located in either Sira, Nelamangala, or Tumakuru. "Sira would be ideal. If not, Nelamangala or Tumakuru is more suitable. I've also communicated this to the Union Civil Aviation Minister and received a positive response," Jarkiholi said, opposing the idea of locating the new airport near Kanakapura Road in south Bengaluru. "That area is already congested with traffic and not ideal for future growth. Building an airport there serves no purpose," he argued.

Countering his remarks, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "It doesn't have to be in Kanakapura, but I have no objections to wherever the airport is set up as long as it's beneficial to Karnataka."

AAI team inspects proposed sites for Bengaluru second airport

> **"Shira would be ideal. If not, Nelamangala or Tumakuru is more suitable. I've also communicated this to the Union Civil Aviation Minister and received a positive response**
>
> –Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi

Meanwhile, TB Jayachandra, MLA from Sira and the State Government's representative in Delhi, said he had submitted a letter signed by over 30 MLAs from north Karnataka recommending Sira as the site for the second airport.

Final decision within a month

Minister for Infrastructure Development MB Patil said that a high-level AAI team had conducted surveys at three potential sites and is expected to submit its findings within a month. "Once the feasibility reports are reviewed, we'll approach expert agencies for a detailed study, after which the government will finalise the location," he said.

Patil also emphasised that merely having land was not enough. "You need developers. Just because I want it in Vijayapura doesn't mean it can happen. Companies like Tata and Adani assess feasibility and only then come forward to invest," he explained.

No one can hijack this project

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara also weighed in, commenting on the various proposals. "A survey has been conducted in Nelamangala and Kanakapura too. But the airport must meet AAI's strict guidelines. We welcome the recommendation for Sira, but this project cannot be hijacked by anyone," he said.

He added that while several leaders, including TB Jayachandra and Aravind Bellad, had suggested Sira, the location might not be ideal from the perspective of Bengaluru's accessibility.

NCERT book salutes heroes

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has introduced a new English textbook titled Poorvi for Class 7 students under the National Education Policy (NEP). The book features a graphic story on Karnataka's fearless queen, Rani Abbakka of Ullal—one of India's earliest women freedom fighters. Aimed at enhancing students' language skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing, Poorvi includes interactive and engaging textual activities. One of its prominent units, Salute to the Brave Hearts, pays tribute to India's armed forces through the poem My Dear Soldiers and presents a vivid graphic narrative of Rani Abbakka's defiance against Portuguese invasions. The queen's unyielding spirit and ultimate martyrdom are highlighted to inspire young readers. **–BMB**

Private schools skip summer break

A number of private schools across the state have begun classes for 10th-grade students without granting them the usual summer vacation. These are not preparatory classes, but full-fledged lessons. Interestingly, the first two lessons of the new academic year have already been completed for 10th-grade students. Despite the government's directive announcing summer vacation from April 10, several schools have continued holding classes to boost academic performance and their reputation. However, conducting classes during the vacation period is a violation the education department has warned.

–BMB

BM Health

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Smart fixes for urinary leaks in women

From lifestyle adjustments to advanced therapies, women can now manage urinary incontinence effectively

Urinary incontinence, or the involuntary leakage of urine, is a condition that affects millions of women across the globe. While it can significantly disrupt daily life, impact self-esteem, and lead to social withdrawal, the good news is that medical advancements have paved the way for more effective and personalized treatments. The causes of urinary incontinence vary, ranging from childbirth, hormonal changes, and aging to obesity and certain medical conditions. However, women today have a wide array of options to regain control over their bladder health and overall quality of life.

The first line of management usually involves lifestyle changes. Simple yet effective adjustments such as losing weight can ease pressure on the bladder and significantly reduce leakage. Establishing a bladder training schedule and gradually spacing out bathroom visits can also help retrain the bladder. Dietary tweaks like reducing caffeine, alcohol, and acidic foods may further help by minimising bladder irritation and improving control.

Pelvic floor strengthening exercises are another cornerstone of non-invasive treatment. Regularly practicing Kegel exercises can improve muscle tone and support bladder function. Women may also benefit from pelvic floor physiotherapy under the guidance of trained specialists, ensuring correct technique and better outcomes. These exercises can be especially helpful in managing both stress and urge incontinence.

When lifestyle changes and exercises aren't enough, medications can offer relief. Anticholinergics, beta-3 agonists, and topical estrogen are commonly prescribed to relax the bladder muscles or enhance urethral strength, depending on the type of incontinence. These medications are generally well-tolerated and can be tailored to individual needs.

> **Seeking timely consultation with a healthcare provider can open doors to a life free from the limitations of urinary incontinence**
>
> –Dr Rubina Shanawaz Z, Fortis Hospitals

For women looking for advanced, non-surgical options, innovative therapies like JOGO therapy are emerging as game-changers. JOGO is a digital therapeutic tool that uses biofeedback and neuromuscular re-education to help women strengthen their pelvic floor muscles through AI-guided sessions. Other effective approaches include traditional biofeedback, which monitors real-time muscle activity, and electrical stimulation that activates weakened pelvic muscles. Sacral neuromodulation (SNM) a procedure in which a small device sends gentle electrical impulses to the nerves that control the bladder can also help those experiencing overactive bladder symptoms.

When conservative treatments don't yield the desired results, surgical options may be considered. These include urethral sling procedures, bulking agent injections, or bladder neck suspension surgeries. Typically reserved for severe cases, these procedures are known to have high success rates.

Thanks to the growing range of solutions from simple exercises to cutting-edge digital therapies and surgical interventions women no longer need to suffer in silence. Seeking timely consultation with a healthcare provider can open doors to a life free from the limitations of urinary incontinence.

— Dr Rubina Shanawaz Z, Senior Consultant – Uro-Gynaecology, Gynae-Oncology & Robotic Surgery, Fortis Hospitals, Bengaluru

JD(S) protest turns chaotic

Party workers attempt to besiege Vidhana Soudha

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A protest by Janata Dal (Secular) on Saturday led to chaos in the heart of the city as thousands of party workers, led by JD(S) state president Nikhil Kumaraswamy, attempted to lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha. The rally, held outside Freedom Park, saw activists raising slogans like "Sakappa saku Congress government, Bitti Bhagya no one bedappa," translated as "Enough is enough, Congress government! No one needs your freebie schemes!" targeting the ruling Congress over alleged corruption and rising prices.

Following a protest meeting, JD(S) workers, legislators, and office-bearers marched towards Vidhana Soudha, but were stopped midway by the police. Several activists climbed over barricades in defiance. Police detained 49 protesters, including Nikhil Kumaraswamy, though they were released later.

Around 50 buses carrying JD(S) supporters from across Karnataka added to the chaos, causing severe traffic congestion on Seshadri Road, Kalidasa Road, and Palace Road.

Meanwhile, tensions escalated after posters bearing the slogan "Sakappa saku Congress government" were found plastered across several parts of the city, including KR Circle and Maharani's College Bus Stand. The posters included QR codes linked to a JD(S) campaign. Halasuru Gate police have registered an FIR against the individuals responsible for the unauthorised posters. The protest, held at Freedom Park earlier in the day, was attended by senior JD(S) leaders.

JD(S) leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy with supporters during a protest against the state government for a price hike on power tariff, milk and other essential commodities, at Freedom Park on Saturday

IN BRIEF

Gatecrashers murder watchman

A watchman was murdered by three men for denying them entry into a private property for partying three days ago in Vaderahalli near Kengeri. The victim, residing in a shed on the premises, was attacked by Mohan, Mahesh, and Punith after he refused to allow them to party inside the property. The accused, who arrived with liquor bottles, grew enraged when denied entry. They assaulted the watchman with wooden planks and fled, also stealing his phone. —BMB

Man nabbed with 6.85 kg ganja

The Saddugunte Palya police have arrested a man, who hails from Bihar, for allegedly selling ganja in the city. Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house in Madduramma Colony and seized 6.850 kilograms of ganja, estimated to be worth Rs 3 lakh in the illegal market.

According to police sources, the accused had procured the banned substance from an unidentified person in Bihar at a lower price and was selling it for profit in Bengaluru. During interrogation, the accused confessed to his involvement in the drug trade and revealed the modus operandi of sourcing and distributing ganja in the city. —BMB

Anything goes, when these thieves strike

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

such incidents," he said. "Initially, we thought it might be someone in need, so we overlooked it. But now it's happening frequently, and it's clear that it's intentional. I request the police to take strict action."

The cylinder thieves on the other hand struck in broad daylight. Two unidentified individuals in a scooter were caught on CCTV coolly taking a cylinder from outside a house around midday. The footage shows them casually approaching the gate, scanning the surroundings, and walking away with the cylinder as if it were theirs — no rush, no masks, and no fear.

'Quick way to make money'

A police official noted the impact of rising prices on such crimes, saying, "With milk prices going up, it's turning into a soft target, especially when left unattended during delivery hours." He added, "These incidents are likely the work of small-time offenders who either consume the stolen milk themselves or try to resell it for quick cash."

Authorities have urged booth owners to strengthen security measures and stay alert, emphasising the importance of reporting such incidents, which often go unnoticed or unreported as they are perceived to be minor thefts.

According to the Kamakshipalya Police, no official complaint has been registered in connection with the milk theft incident. However, authorities have assured that strict action will be taken against those involved. "People often dismiss such incidents as minor thefts and fail to report them. In this case as well, we have not received any formal complaint. We can initiate action only once a complaint is filed, but we assure that any such cases brought to our attention will be taken seriously," a police official told BM.

Resale value

Police officials said in the case of gas cylinder theft too nobody came forward to register a complaint. "There have been gas cylinder thefts in the past as well; it's just that with price hikes, they will raise their prices to sell it illegally. The motivation is of course making a fast buck."

They said such thefts are often done with the intention of resale or illegal usage. "Some individuals might sell or trade cylinders for a quick profit, potentially leading to the cylinders being used for illegal activities. Others may be involved in schemes where cylinders are refilled or gas is extracted and sold separately," the official said.

With the recent surge in LPG cylinder prices, in Bengaluru, the price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder has climbed to Rs 855.50, marking a Rs 50 increase from last month's rate of Rs 805.50. Over the past year, LPG prices have shown a consistent upward trend, with the steepest single-month hike of Rs 50 recorded in April 2025.

Illegal activity tends to spike during times of high demand or when disruptions in the supply chain lead to shortages, creating an opportunity for black market sales to flourish.

Nearly 27 days ago, a similar case was reported from BTM Layout, where gas cylinder thieves targeted a residential building. The cylinders, which were stored in the basement near the house entrance, were stolen in broad daylight. CCTV footage from the parking lot captured two young men arriving on a scooter, casually lifting the cylinder and riding off before anyone could intervene. According to sources, this menace of cylinder thieves has increased in the city, in many places including Ejipura and Koramangala.

According to police officials, earlier there have been reports of schemes involving the unauthorised extraction and refilling of LPG cylinders, sometimes implicating delivery personnel or others with access to domestic supply. The stolen cylinders could potentially be used for illegal purposes, such as refilling with substandard or hazardous gas or for unauthorised transportation. This poses serious safety hazards, as these cylinders are often not properly inspected or maintained, significantly increasing the risk of gas leaks, fires, or even explosions.

In an operation on January this year, officials raided a shop engaged in unauthorised stocking and illegal refilling of LPG cylinders in Jayanagar 1st Block, Someswara Nagar. The raid uncovered a total of 80 LPG cylinders—both private and government-owned—along with three refilling rods and a weighing machine, collectively valued at Rs 4 lakh.

A senior police official has urged residents to promptly report any missing gas cylinders, emphasising that failing to file a complaint only encourages repeat offences. "These thieves will continue their activities unchecked unless legal action is taken. Only when they are brought under the purview of the law can such crimes be curbed," the official stated.

K'taka leads the EV charging pack

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

responsible for establishing EV charging infrastructure, should bring an interest-free expertise, to analyze location and number of charging stations.

"We conducted an exercise on developing an optimisation model to decide optimal number and geolocation of charging stations in Bengaluru. The idea was to create decision support for Bescom. The optimal number of charging stations in Bengaluru, as per our analysis, was less than 4,000. Demand for charging stations in different areas of the city is a function of many factors. These factors should be analysed scientifically to arrive at the total number of stations and their locations," said Professor Ashish Verma, Convenor of Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Haphazard placement

Unfortunately, the number of stations is being scaled up unscientifically, with Bescom installing public recharge stations based on their convenience, say experts.

Distribution or pattern of EV users in different parts of the city, their daily travel requirements, adequacy of home charging system, their preference for public charging systems, are important factors that would influence demand of charging stations in an area. These aspects require analysis to ensure the stations are not in short supply or over supply in given areas.

Experts say while there are no global standards for charging infrastructure density, a widely accepted benchmark for electric cars and light commercial vehicles is 10–15 EVs per charging station, and Bengaluru falls short of it.

Researchers at the Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP) say that more than 23 lakh EVs are expected to ply on Bengaluru roads by 2030. Based on the charging patterns of EV users in the city, the demand estimated is of more than 36,000 public charger guns by 2030 (i.e. 58 electric cars per charger guns). However, to meet the global benchmark, more than 1.5 lakh EVSE would be required.

While lack of reliable power supply on highways is the major cause of concern and limiting factor for charging infrastructure, in dense urban areas, high upfront investments, low utilization, and longer payback periods are major reasons for the slower expansion of the charging network, experts opine.

"Furthermore, the limited availability of suitable land parcels and their high cost also pose challenges. Our report estimates that 141 acres of land across the city is required to set up 36,000 charger guns. About 40%–50% of personal EV users prefer home charging, while 85% of commercial users rely on public chargers. Thus, targeting workplaces and commercial hubs for infrastructure can better match charging demand," said Vivek Gavimath, senior analyst in the Strategic Studies sector at CSTEP.

THE SUNDAY READ

Mind over matter

Being married linked to increased risk of dementia: New study

Aould you believe me if I told you that staying single or ending your marriage could lower your odds of getting dementia? A new study led by researchers at Florida State University somewhat shockingly suggests that unmarried people are less likely to develop dementia.

If you think you've heard the opposite, you are correct. A 2019 study from America found that unmarried people had "significantly higher odds of developing dementia over the study period than their married counterparts".

Indeed, married people are generally thought to have better health. Studies have shown that they are at reduced risk of having heart disease and stroke and they tend to live longer. So why did the new study come up with this surprising finding? Let's take a closer look.

The researchers analysed data from more than 24,000 Americans without dementia at the start of the study. Participants were tracked for up to 18 years. Crucially, the team compared dementia rates across marital groups: married, divorced, widowed and never-married.

At first, it looked as though all three unmarried groups had a reduced risk of dementia compared with the married group. But, after accounting for other factors that could influence the results such as smoking and depression, only divorced and never-married people had a lower risk of dementia.

Differences were also seen depending on the type of dementia. For example, being unmarried was consistently linked with a lower risk of Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. But it was not shown for vascular dementia – a rarer form of the condition.

The researchers also found that divorced or never-married people were less likely to progress from mild cognitive impairment to dementia and that people who became widowed during the study had a lower risk of dementia.

These findings show how complex effects of marital disruptions, transitions and choices on brain health are. Being married is by no means an established protective factor for dementia

Possible explanations

One reason for the unexpected results? Married people might be diagnosed earlier because they have spouses who notice memory problems and push for a doctor's visit. This could make dementia look more common in married people – even if it's not.

This is called ascertainment bias — when data is skewed because of who gets diagnosed or noticed more easily. However, the evidence of this was not strong. All participants had annual visits from a doctor, who could be thought of as a proxy partner who would spot early signs of dementia in the participant.

Perhaps it was the case that the sample of people used, from the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) study, was not representative of the wider population.

Specifically, the sample showed low levels of ethnic and income diversity. Also, nearly 64% of the participants were married. This may affect how these unexpected findings translate to the wider world. They could just have been unique to NACC participants.

However, it is more likely that these findings highlight just how complex the effects of marital disruptions, transitions and choices on brain health really are. Being married is by no means an established protective factor for dementia, with an earlier meta-analysis (a study of studies) showing mixed results.

The new study from Florida State University uses one of the biggest samples to date to examine this issue, and carries a good deal of weight. It highlights that assumptions based on previous research that widowhood and divorce are very stressful life events that can trigger Alzheimer's disease or that unmarried people are socially isolated and therefore may be at higher risk of dementia, may not always be correct.

Relationship dynamics are by no means straightforward. As mentioned in the paper, such dynamics may "provide a more nuanced understanding than a simple binary effect". Factors such as marriage quality, levels of satisfaction after divorce, cultural considerations, or the sociability of single people compared with coupled ones may help explain these seemingly contradictory results.

This study challenges the idea that marriage is automatically good for brain health. Instead, it suggests the effect of relationships on dementia is far more complex. What matters might not be your relationship status but how supported, connected and fulfilled you feel.

(By Avinash Chandra, Queen Mary University of London, The Conversation)

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personal

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANJANEYA REDDY PAPA REDDY son of PAPA REDDY resident of Chikkakadathur Village, Doddakadathur Post, Malur Taluk, Kolar:563130. Am changing my Name/ Surname to ANJANEYA REDDY for all the purpose. Here after I will be called as ANJANEYA REDDY, Same sworn before M.Venkataramaiah, Advocate & Notary, Malur Vide affidavit Dated 12/04/2025.

I, SHRUTI RAMCHANDRAN, D/o Ramachandran Nair, Residing at No 208, Tranquil Ambience, 2nd Floor, Vignana Nagar, New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru-560075, has changed my name from SHRUTI RAMCHANDRAN NAIR to SHRUTI RAMCHANDRAN for all future purposes.

I Vasudha Tirumaleshwar Hegde W/O, Pramod Ramamohan Hegde R/o No 67, 2nd Cross, Ramanna Gardens Vidhyaranyapura Bengaluru - 560097 have changed my name to Vasudha Pramod Hegde.

Apple has few incentives to start making iPhones in US, despite Trump's trade war with China

What will Apple do next?

President Donald Trump's administration has been predicting its barrage of tariffs targeting China will push Apple into manufacturing the iPhone in the United States for the first time.

But that's an unlikely scenario even with U.S tariffs now standing at 145% on products made in China — the country where Apple has manufactured most of its iPhones since the first model hit the market 18 years ago.

The disincentives for Apple shifting its production domestically include a complex supply chain that it began building in China during the 1990s. It would take several years and cost billions of dollars to build new plants in the U.S., and then confront Apple with economic forces that could triple the price of an iPhone, threatening to torpedo sales of its marquee product. "The concept of making iPhones in the U.S. is a non-starter," asserted Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives, reflecting a widely held view in the investment community that tracks Apple's every move. He estimated that the current $1,000 price tag for an iPhone made in China, or India, would soar to more than $3,000 if production shifted to the U.S. And he believes that moving production domestically likely couldn't be done until, at the earliest, 2028. "Price points would move so dramatically, it's hard to comprehend." Apple didn't respond to a request for comment Wednesday. The Cupertino, California, company has yet to publicly discuss its response to Trump's tariffs on China, but the topic may come up on May 1 when Apple CEO Tim Cook is scheduled to field questions from analysts during a quarterly conference call to discuss the company's financial results and strategy.

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And there is no doubt the China tariffs will be a hot-button issue given Apple's stock price has dropped by 15% and lowered the company's market value by $500 billion since Trump began increasing them on April 2. If the tariffs hold, Apple is expected to eventually raise the prices on iPhones and other popular products because the Silicon Valley's supply chain is so heavily concentrated in China, India and other overseas markets caught in the crossfire of the escalating trade war.

The big question is how long Apple might be willing to hold the line on its current prices before the tariffs' toll on the company's profit margins become too much to bear and consumers are asked to shoulder some of the burden.

One of the main reasons that Apple has wiggle room to hold the line on its current iPhone pricing while the China tariffs remain in place is because the company continues to reap huge profit margins from the revenue generated by the subscriptions and other services tied to its product, said Forrester Research analyst Dipanjan Chatterjee. That division, which collected $96 billion in revenue during Apple's last fiscal year, remains untouched by Trump's tariffs. "Apple can absorb some of the tariff-induced cost increases without significant financial impact, at least in the short term," Chatterjee said.

Apple tried to appease Trump in February by announcing plans to spend $500 billion and hire 20,000 people in the U.S. through 2028, but none of it was tied to making an iPhone domestically. Instead, Apple pledged to fund a Houston data center for computer servers powering artificial intelligence — a technology the company is expanding into as part of an industrywide craze. **AP**

WhatsApp, digital payments interface outage rattles India

Meta-owned popular messaging app WhatsApp on Saturday went down for users in India, who were unable to send messages and upload status. According to app outage tracking platform Down Detector, at least 81 per cent users reported problems with sending messages while 16 per cent with overall app experience.

"Is it just me or your WhatsApp is down as well? I am trying to upload status and it's taking forever to do so," said a user on X.

There was no immediate statement from WhatsApp on the outage. Some users reported similar outage on Facebook and Instagram as well, both owned by Meta.

"Hey @WhatsApp, is the app down? I'm having trouble sending messages – they're just not going through. Anyone else facing this?" posted one user.

In late February, WhatsApp experienced a massive outage, leaving many users across the world unable to use the app properly. Users were unable to connect or send messages via the WhatsApp app or WhatsApp Web or make any calls. Down Detector reported over 9,000 complaints on that day.

Earlier in the day, digital payments via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) returned for most users after the popular service suffered a nationwide outage affecting millions of users.

Digital services on several online payment platforms were disrupted across the country, hindering local shopping, bill payments and business transactions.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates the UPI services, posted on X social media platform that the disruptions were due to technical issues.

"NPCI is currently facing intermittent technical issues, leading to partial UPI transaction declines," the NPCI, shared in a post on social media platform X.

"We are working to resolve the issue and will keep you updated. We regret the inconvenience caused," it added. **–IANS**

BITS & BYTES

SEBI WARNING

Alarmed at frauds related to securities market on various social media platforms, capital markets regulator SEBI has issued an advisory for investors to exercise caution and due diligence to verify the genuineness of social media handles of SEBI-registered entities while accessing them.

SEBI noticed an increase in frauds related to securities market on various social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, X (previously Twitter), WhatsApp, Telegram, Google Play Store and Apple Store, etc.

. **IANS**

TCS DELAYS SALARY HIKES

IT services major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has delayed salary hikes, as the management remained uncleared on the increment cycle amid global uncertainty arising due to US tariffs.

TCS typically revises the wages of its staff in April every year. The employee count at the end of fiscal 2025 stood at 6,07,979, as the company added 625 employees in the fourth quarter. In the entire financial year, the company hired 42,000 freshers. The IT major now plans to make the salary revision decision based on the evolving business environment as uncertainty looms the sector.

The attrition rate in the fourth quarter for TCS increased to 13.3 per cent from 13 per cent in the last quarter. **IANS**

META 'HAND IN GLOVE' WITH CHINA

Social media platform Meta and CEO Mark Zuckerberg are 'hand in glove' with China, and have betrayed American values, according to a whistleblower. A former Meta executive, Sarah Wynn-Williams, has come forward as a whistleblower, accusing the social media giant of compromising US national security to establish a substantial business presence in China. Wynn-Williams accused Meta executives of allowing the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) to access user data, including that of Americans. She noted that Meta worked "hand in glove" with Beijing to create censorship tools that were used to silence critics of the CPC. **IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Warm water also aids digestion and helps wash down excess stomach acid

Honey has natural healing properties that may reduce irritation in your food pipe caused by acid reflux

BangaloreMirror | 13
Sunday, April 13, 2025
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All you need to know about...

Common respiratory condition

Risk of death
Adults with respiratory syncytial virus-associated acute respiratory infection (RSV-ARI) are likely to be at a 2.7-fold higher risk of death within one year, warned a study.

Highly contagious virus
RSV-ARI refers to a group of illnesses caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) -- a common and highly contagious virus that primarily affects the respiratory tract.

Serious impact
The study presented at the Congress of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID Global 2025) in Austria, is based on an analysis of data from 5,289 adults (over 18 years) diagnosed with RSV-ARI between 2011 and 2022 in Denmark. "One of the most striking findings from this study was the prolonged and significant impact of RSV-ARI," said lead study author, Maria Joao Fonseca, a researcher.

Worse outcomes
"Even after the acute phase, patients continued to experience worse outcomes compared to the general population. This underscores just how serious and enduring the effects of RSV-ARI can be," she added.
While the impact of RSV on infants and young children is well-documented, it can also lead to serious complications in adults, including pneumonia and chronic respiratory disease.

Aggravated COPD, asthma
The findings underscore the significant, yet often under-recognised, long-term health and economic burden of RSV-ARI in adults, particularly among those with underlying conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. In addition to the increased risk of death, the study showed that adults with RSV also experience exacerbations of COPD and asthma, with increases in hospitalisation and intensive care unit. —IANS

READY FOR EASTER?

Recipes that will add more joy to the festival

MILLE-FEUILLE

INGREDIENTS
For the puff pastry layers
Ready-made puff pastry – 50g (approx. a 10x10cm square) – 180 kcal
For the vanilla pastry cream
- Milk – 80ml (1/3 cup) – 40 kcal
- Egg yolk – 15g (1 yolk) – 55 kcal
- Sugar – 10g (2 tsp) – 40 kcal
- Cornstarch – 6g (1.5 tsp) – 23 kcal
- Vanilla extract – a drop
- Unsalted butter – 5g – 36 kcal

Icing (optional glaze):
- Powdered sugar – 10g (2 tsp) – 40 kcal
- Water or milk – a few drops
- Optional: melted dark chocolate (2g) for feathering – 12 kcal

METHOD
Step1: Puff Pastry Layers
- Roll puff pastry thin and cut into 3 equal rectangles (approx. 3x10 cm each).
- Prick with a fork to prevent too much puffing.
- Bake at 200°C (392°F) for 15–18 minutes until golden and crisp.
- Let cool completely.

Step 2: Vanilla Pastry Cream
- Warm the milk with vanilla.
- Whisk yolk, sugar, and cornstarch until pale.
- Temper with milk, then return to heat and stir until thick.
- Off heat, stir in butter. Chill completely.

Step 3: Assemble
- Place 1 puff pastry sheet, pipe or spoon pastry cream.
- Add the 2nd sheet, more pastry cream.
- Top with the final pastry layer.

Step 4: Optional Glaze
- Glaze with chocolate ganache

FRESH FIG TART

INGREDIENTS
For the tart shell
- All-purpose flour – 25g (2 tbsp) – 91 kcal
- Unsalted butter – 15g (1 tbsp) – 102 kcal
- Powdered sugar – 7g (1.5 tsp) – 28 kcal
- Egg yolk – 8g (½ yolk) – 27 kcal
- Salt – a pinch
- Ice water – 1 tsp (as needed)

For the filling (pastry cream)
- Milk – 50ml (3.5 tbsp) – 25 kcal
- Egg yolk – 8g (½ yolk) – 27 kcal
- Cornstarch – 4g (1 tsp) – 15 kcal
- Sugar – 5g (1 tsp) – 20 kcal
- Vanilla extract – a drop

Topping
- Fresh figs – 2 medium (about 80g) – 60 kcal
- Optional: apricot glaze (1 tsp) – 15 kcal

METHOD
Step 1: Tart Shell
- Mix flour, sugar, and salt. Add cold butter and rub until sandy.
- Mix in egg yolk and a few drops of water just until it forms a dough.
- Chill 15 mins. Roll out and press into a 3-inch tart ring or small ramekin.
- Bake at 170°C (340°F) for 15–20 minutes until golden.

Step 2: Pastry Cream
- Heat milk until warm.
- Whisk yolk, sugar, and cornstarch.
- Temper with milk, return to heat, and stir until thick.
- Remove from heat, add vanilla. Cool completely.

Step 3: Assemble
- Fill the cooled tart shell with pastry cream.
- Top with fresh fig slices.
- Brush with warm apricot glaze

WHITE CHOCOLATE BAILEYS OPERA CAKE

INGREDIENTS
Joconde Sponge (almond sponge)
- Almond flour – 10g – 60 kcal
- Icing sugar – 10g – 40 kcal
- Cake flour – 4g – 15 kcal
- Whole egg – 20g (less than ½ egg) – 30 kcal
- Egg white – 10g – 5 kcal
- Sugar – 4g – 16 kcal
- Melted butter – 5g – 36 kcal

Baileys Syrup
- Baileys Irish Cream – 10ml – 35 kcal
- Water – 5ml
- Sugar – 3g – 12 kcal

White Chocolate Ganache
- White chocolate – 20g – 110 kcal
- Cream – 10ml – 35 kcal

Baileys Buttercream
- Butter – 15g – 108 kcal
- Icing sugar – 10g – 40 kcal
- Baileys – 5ml – 17 kcal

Glaze (optional)
- White chocolate – 5g – 28 kcal
- A drop of oil or cream for spreadability

METHOD
Step 1: Joconde Sponge
- Beat egg, almond flour, and icing sugar until pale and fluffy.
- Fold in flour, then gently fold in whipped egg whites (with sugar).
- Add melted butter last.
- Spread thinly (on parchment), bake at 200°C for ~6–8 mins.
- Cool and cut into 3 layers (approx. 4x8 cm rectangles).

Step 2: Baileys Syrup
- Boil water and sugar, let cool, stir in Baileys.

Step 3: White Chocolate Ganache
- Heat cream, pour over white chocolate, rest, stir until smooth.

Step 4: Baileys Buttercream
- Beat soft butter and icing sugar until pale.
- Add Baileys and whip until smooth and fluffy.

Step 5: Assembly
- Layer 1: Joconde + brush syrup + buttercream
- Layer 2: Joconde + syrup + ganache
- Layer 3: Joconde + syrup + thin buttercream layer
- Chill well.

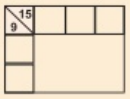
Step 6: Glaze (optional)
- Spread melted white chocolate (with a drop of oil/ cream) on top for a glossy finish.

Recipes by Chef Gaurav Anand, Director of Culinary, Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn Bengaluru Embassy Manyata Business Park

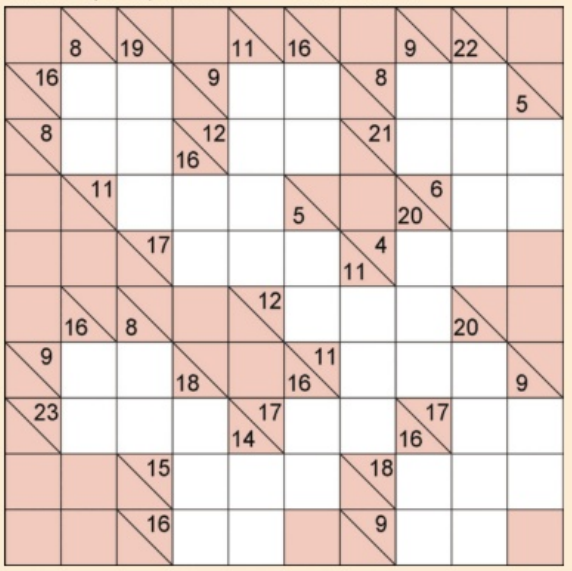
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

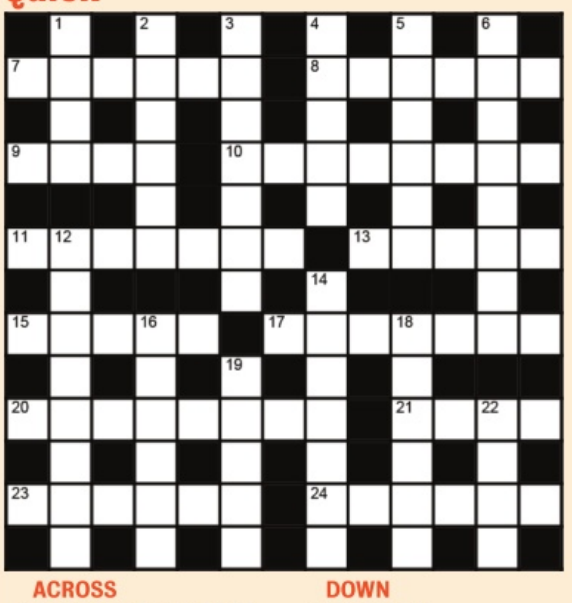
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Straightened oneself (4,2)
8 Common burrowing animal (6)
9 Fencing sword (4)
10 Wants, needs or necessitates (8)
11 Outcomes or issues (7)
13 Flower part (5)
15 Contest or event (5)
17 Assassin's intended victims (3,4)
20 Hurry up! (4-4)
21 One of Bangalore's oldest temples (4)
23 American dinner jacket (6)
24 Grating sounds or noises (6)

DOWN

1 Vivacity (4)
2 A dozen (6)
3 Alcoholic drinks? (7)
4 Saddam Hussain or his countryman (5)
5 Help or do a favour to (6)
6 Bauxite, gypsum, etc (8)
12 Camera accessory (8)
14 Find fault (7)
16 ___ it : got into trouble or was punished? (6)
18 Tossed slowly (6)
19 Pulsate (5)
22 New Testament gospel (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

OWPWTO WB R TYAYBBWJU BCVYJWVYB... VCSY KSOYTJ, WTQYYQ, JDRT DRPWTO.

Linemaro

I didn't mean to ogle you, but I'd sure like to Google you

Mindchow

When it becomes more difficult to suffer than change, then you will change

Joke of the day

Peter: What is the name of the instrument with the light on the end, that the doctor sticks in your ear?
Paul: Oh, a cigarette.

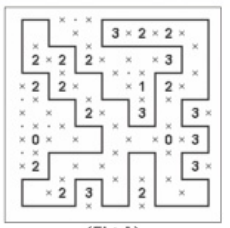
Loop

Rules

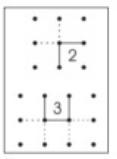
» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

How to begin:

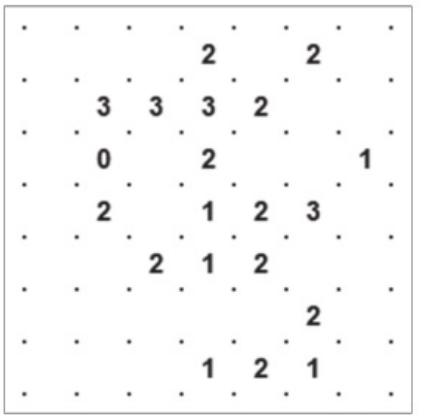
Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



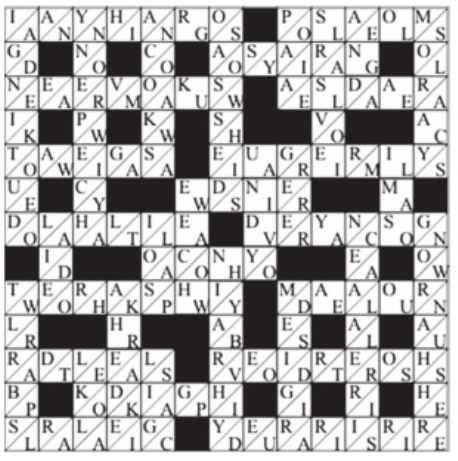
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



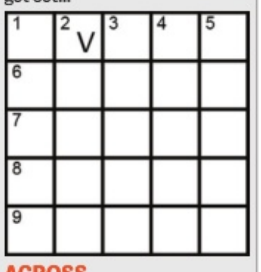
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

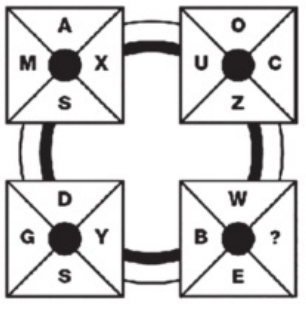
1 At vas; 6 Cohan;
7 Err it; 8 In die;
9 Sacks

DOWN

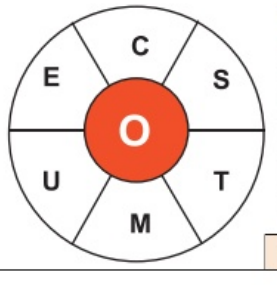
1 Actin; 2 Var an;
3 A disc; 4 Hikes;
5 Roset

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6	8			7			1	2
			4		8			
		7				6		
4		8	1	9	6	3		7
7		3	2	5	4	8		1
		2				5		
			5		3			
3	1			8			6	9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
2 2 5 6

Medium = 13
1 2 3 4

Hard = 24
2 4 6 7

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

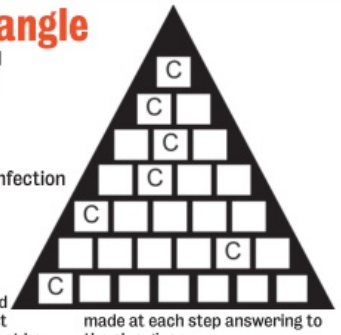
Differences: 1. Boy's arm is longer. 2. Store window is different. 3. Chimney is shorter. 4. Button is missing. 5. Santa hat is different. 6. Belt loop is moved.

Riddler

What is the longest, non-scientific word to have all of its letters in alphabetical order?

Alpha triangle

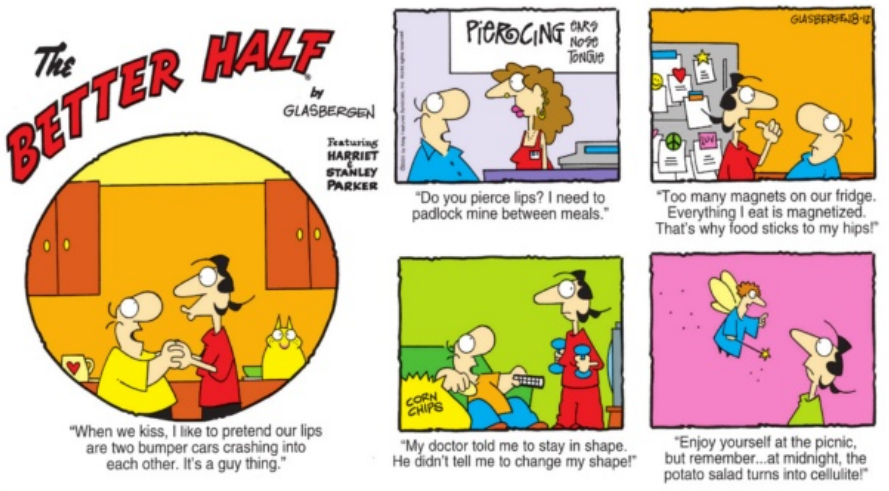
1 Atomic number VI
2 Commanding Off.
3 Green prefix
4 Reflected sound
5 Task
6 Roman poet
7 Acute intestinal infection



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
PIERCING EARS NOSE TONGUE
GLASBERGEN
"When we kiss, I like to pretend our lips are two bumper cars crashing into each other. It's a guy thing."
"Do you pierce lips? I need to padlock mine between meals."
"Too many magnets on our fridge. Everything I eat is magnetized. That's why food sticks to my hips!"
CORN CHIPS
"My doctor told me to stay in shape. He didn't tell me to change my shape!"
"Enjoy yourself at the picnic, but remember...at midnight, the potato salad turns into cellulite!"

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
I DON'T KNOW...
THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF THING YOU JUST "GET OVER."
KIDS GET SCARRED FOR LIFE BY STUFF LIKE THIS!
THIS WILL TAKE A LIFETIME OF THERAPY TO GET THROUGH... IF I'M LUCKY.
JUST PICK THE PIECES OF MUSHROOM OUT OF YOUR SPAGHETTI SAUCE, ZOE.
"PIECES"?? THERE'S MORE THAN ONE?

FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
DALE ARDEN
HAVING DISCOVERED THE SPACECRAFT THAT FIRST BROUGHT THEM TO THE PLANET MONGO, FLASH REMEMBERS THE WAY IT BEGAN...
IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY.
BLASTING OFF FROM EARTH, CRASH-LANDING ON A HOSTILE, ALIEN WORLD.
"AND THROUGH IT ALL... ...DALE.
IN A WORLD GONE MAD SHE GAVE ME A REASON TO KEEP ON GOING."
4-23
SHE'S SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR OTHERS, IT'S TIME I DID SOMETHING FOR HER.
ZARKOV, HOW LONG BEFORE YOU COULD HAVE ANOTHER SHIP UP AND RUNNING?
WHAT..?!
FLASH! DO YOU MEAN..?
WE'VE BEEN TRAIPSING AROUND THE UNIVERSE LONG ENOUGH.
LET'S GO HOME.
AS FLASH AND DALE EMBRACE, A SINISTER FIGURE WATCHES FROM THE SHADOWS.
HE SMILES. A COLD JOYLESS SMILE...
... THEN DISAPPEARS FROM WHENCE HE CAME.
NEXT DESTINATION: EARTH!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
The Moon's unfavorable energy may impact your mood and physical well-being. Health issues could arise—take it easy and avoid overexertion. Refrain from making new business investments, as losses are likely. Students should stay focused and avoid daydreaming. Drive cautiously and avoid rushing.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Peace and harmony will dominate your day. Time with friends and family will be fulfilling. Your bond with your spouse may deepen, and a new business partnership could emerge. Innovative ideas may fuel professional growth. Lingering conflicts in partnerships may finally be resolved.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Improved health brings a better mood and renewed energy. You may successfully control unnecessary spending, and new sources of income might appear, enhancing financial stability. Singles may meet someone special within their community.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The Moon's positive influence boosts your energy and concentration. You'll perform well at work and may assist someone in need, earning respect. Intellectual pursuits are attractive today, and you may begin planning for higher education to advance your career.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may feel impatient or lack confidence until evening, impacting your productivity. Concerns about a parent's health or a child's behavior could be stressful. Avoid scattering your energy and postpone risky investments for now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Happiness and progress are on the horizon. You may plan a work-related trip abroad that benefits your career or business. While luxury purchases could enhance your lifestyle, avoid excessive indulgence or financial recklessness.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Be mindful of your words—harsh language could disrupt family harmony. Resist the urge to spend impulsively to maintain appearances. Keep your finances secure and avoid unnecessary purchases.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your attention may turn to your child's education or extracurricular activities. Seeking expert advice can help with career decisions for them. Positive news regarding academic results may arrive, and you might explore investment opportunities in the family business.

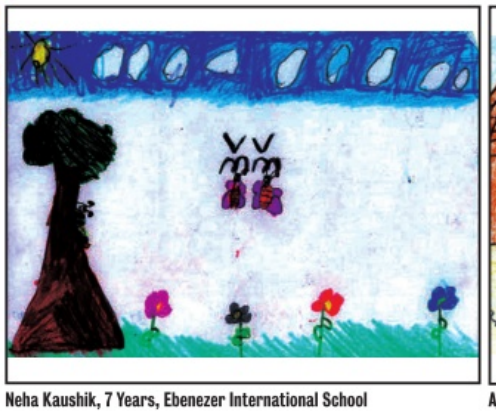
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Watch your words and stay alert to hidden enemies or workplace politics. Avoid high-risk investments and refrain from lending money, as repayment could be delayed. Meditation and yoga may help reduce stress. Lovebirds should avoid unnecessary drama, and students need to remain focused.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Positive news is likely for job seekers—new opportunities or promotions may be on the way. Business owners could attract valuable clients. Singles might meet someone special. Be transparent with your spouse to avoid misunderstandings.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You're likely to succeed professionally today. Long-standing projects may finally yield profits. Gains from previous investments may arrive. Your creativity supports skill development, and job seekers may find suitable opportunities. Emotional bonding with your spouse will deepen.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The first half of the day may feel challenging, but things will improve by afternoon with the support of elders' blessings. Your willpower will help complete delayed tasks. Avoid domestic conflicts. By evening, financial gains from earlier investments could materialize.

KIDZONE


Neha Kaushik, 7 Years, Ebenezer International School

Ayesha Arbin, 13 Years, Shantiniketan Trust School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$3^{3n}(1+1+1)/81^{n}$
$= 3^{3n}*3/81^{n}$
$= 3^{3n}/3^{3n}$
$= 3^{0} = 1$

BULL'S EYE
come, comet, cost, COSTUME, custom, most, mote, mouse, oust, scout, some, tome

STRIKE OUT

I	N	N	I	N	G	S	P	S	A	L	M			
G	O	O	A	S	I	A	N	O						
N	E	R	V	O	U	S	E	L	D	E	R			
I	W	K	H			V		A						
T	M	I	G	S	E	A	G	E	R	L	Y			
E		C		E	S	N	E			A	L			
D	A	H	L	I	A	D	E	A	C	O	N			
	D		A	C	H	Y		A		O				
W	O	R	K	S	H	Y	M	E	L	O	N			
A	T	L	A	S		R	E	D	R	E	S	S		
P	O	K	A	P	I		I		R		E			
	R		H		B		E		L		U			
C	H	O	P	C	H	O	P		B	U	L	L		
	S		O		T		O							
M	A	T	C	H		H	I	T	L	I	S	T		
	L		S		N				L					
E	F	F	E	C	T	S		P	E	T	A	L		
		V		I		I		G		R				
F	O	I	L		R	E	Q	U	I	R	E	S		
D	R	E	W	U	P		R	A	B	B	I	T		
	E		I		A		L		A		N			
B	T	S		I		O		M						
N		D		B		K		D		E				

FAST FIVE

A	V	A	S	T
N	A	C	H	O
T	R	I	E	R
I	N	D	I	E
C	A	S	K	S

RIDDLER Billowy.

QUOTE UNCODE
Giving is a necessity sometimes... more urgent, indeed, than having.

QUICK

B	T	S		I		O		M						
	E		I		A		L		A		N			
D	R	E	W	U	P		R	A	B	B	I	T		
F	O	I	L		R	E	Q	U	I	R	E	S		
	V		I		I		G		R					
E	F	F	E	C	T	S		P	E	T	A	L		
	L		S		N				L					
M	A	T	C	H		H	I	T	L	I	S	T		
	S		O		T		O							
C	H	O	P	C	H	O	P		B	U	L	L		
G		P		R		I		B		U				
T	U	X	E	D	O		C	R	E	A	K	S		
	N		D		B		K		D		E			

MENSA PUZZLE
Q. Starting with the top left square, and moving clockwise around the other squares, the numerical values of each letter increase by 2, with their relative positions in each square rotating 1 place clockwise at each turn.

SUDOKU

3	1	5	7	8	2	4	6	9
9	7	6	5	4	3	1	2	8
8	4	2	6	1	9	5	7	3
7	6	3	2	5	4	8	9	1
1	5	9	8	3	7	2	4	6
4	2	8	1	9	6	3	5	7
5	3	7	9	2	1	6	8	4
2	9	1	4	6	8	7	3	5
6	8	4	3	7	5	9	1	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
Easy
5 – 6 + 2 + 2 = 3
Medium
4 x 3 + 2 – 1 = 13
Hard
4 x 7 – 6 + 2 = 24

GO FIGURE
C, CO, Eco, Echo, Chore, Horace, Cholera.

LOOP

KAKURO

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Screen shy star
Owen Cooper confesses he's avoided watching 'Adolescence', says he "doesn't like" seeing himself on screen

BangaloreMirror | 16
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JUST GOOD FRENEMIES

Friends or enemies? A bit of both

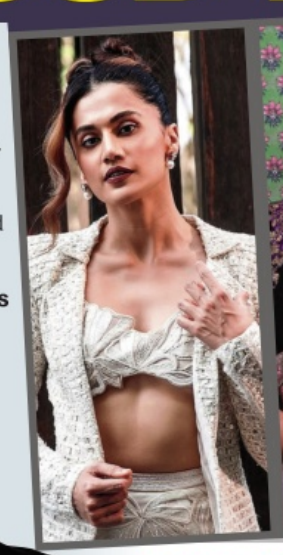
Bollywood has several relationships that are in the grey zone. One doesn't know if the persons involved are good friends or not on talking terms. We take a look at a few names we are aware of. —ETimes

Deepika Padukone & Anushka Sharma

They started out around the same time, dated the same guy (yes, Ranveer Singh and Ranbir Kapoor were both in the mix), and often found themselves compared in the media. Though both actresses have been polite in public, insiders claim there's always been an undercurrent of competitiveness. Anushka once called out a magazine for claiming she was insecure about Deepika, stating, "I'm not that kind of a person." While they've never had a full-blown fallout, they've never exactly been BFFs either.

Karan Johar & Kajol

Once inseparable, Karan Johar and Kajol had a shocking falling out after a nearly two-decade-long friendship. The rift happened around the time of Ae Dil Hai Mushkil and Shivaay, when their respective films clashed at the box office. Karan even revealed in his autobiography that Kajol "killed every bit of emotion" he had for her. Although they eventually patched up, the break showed that even the strongest bonds in Bollywood can get shaken.



Kangana Ranaut & Taapsee Pannu

This one's no secret. What started as industry admiration turned into a full-blown Twitter war. Kangana called Taapsee a "B-grade actress" and accused her of being a "needy outsider." Taapsee, unfazed, clapped back with her usual wit, leading to one of Bollywood's most public frenemy feuds. Their online spats made more headlines than some films did that year!

Kareena Kapoor Khan & Priyanka Chopra Jonas

From swapping boyfriends (hello, Shahid Kapoor!) to indirect shade in interviews, Kareena and Priyanka's dynamic has been anything but boring. Kareena once questioned Priyanka's accent on Koffee with Karan, to which Priyanka cheekily replied that she got it from the same place Kareena's ex did. While they've maintained a cordial tone lately, their frenemy status has been a constant in B-town gossip circles.

Salman Khan & Shah Rukh Khan

Bollywood's biggest bromance, turned bitter after their infamous fight at Katrina Kaif's birthday party in 2008. For years, Salman and SRK avoided each other, took subtle digs in interviews, and skipped each other's film events. Though they've since hugged it out (literally) and even shared the screen in Pathaan, the journey from Karan Arjun to Karan Arjun 2.0 was filled with drama.

'I was born with gypsy blood'

Actress and former beauty queen Lara Dutta thinks she was born with gypsy blood as she juggles between living in Mumbai, Dubai and Goa. Lara took to her Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures from her travels to different cities. It also included pictures with her daughter Saira, husband Mahesh Bhupathi, close friends and family members.

In the caption section, the actress wrote: "Already mid April (almost)!!! It was said - as one got older, you start settling down….. I think I was born with gypsy blood! Or atleast as my dad says, with wheels on my feet!"

"Living between home (Mumbai) and my adopted home (Dubai) seems almost seamless now (with a little goa thrown in now and then)! Sometimes an even shorter flight than mumbai-Delhi ……." she added.Lara revealed that the people she knows "are now choosing to live seasonally." —IANS

Hurt at being replaced

Nushrratt Bharuccha, who started her acting journey back in 2006, has spent nearly two decades carving a space for herself in the Hindi film industry. In 2019, she won audiences over with her role opposite Ayushmann Khurrana in the sleeper hit Dream Girl.

Naturally, fans were disappointed when she didn't return for the sequel, Dream Girl 2, released in 2023. In a recent interview, the actor finally broke her silence on being replaced by Ananya Panday and admitted it did sting. Reflecting on her long and often challenging journey as an outsider in Bollywood, Nushrratt told Nayandeep Rakshit that not being cast in the sequel of her own film was particularly upsetting. "It hurt me even more when I was not part of my own sequel also, when every other actor was the same except the girl, which I felt was, not cool naa, guys?" she shared, adding with a resigned laugh, "Just not cool. But, theek hai, no problem."

The actor also clarified that she never contested the decision. "What do I fight? What am I going to say? 'Why not me?' They'll say, 'Because we don't want you.' That's the truth of it. It ends there," she explained. For her, the real battle is staying grounded. —ETimes